Introduction of electronic mail service

1105. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the electronic mail service is to be introduced in 480 district centres of the country;

(b) if so, what are the names of such centres; and

(c) what are the names of those centres where the service would be introduced during this year?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): An experimental pilot project Electronic Mail Service will be introduced in Delhi, Bombay and Madras but not in 480 district centres of the country to start with.

(b) and (c) Apart from three cities mentioned above, efforts to introduce this service in Hyderabad, Bangalore, Calcutta, etc. are underway in the near future, though no assurance can be given at this stage regarding dates.

DESU bills for Vasant Vihar CPWD Complex

1106. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received by the Chairman, Delhi Electric Supply Committee of D.E.S.U. from area Welfare associations of Vasant Vihar CPWD Complex, New Delhi regarding regular supply of DESU Electricity Consumption bills to the residents of that area;

(b) whether Executive Engineer, DESU, West Block, R. K. Puram, New Delhi informed any of the area welfare associations that bills from August, 1987 to December, 1987 are under process and will be despatched in the month of January, 1988;

(c) whether it is also a fact that in spite of such assurances the authorities have not so far served any bill in that area till date; and if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when DESU would start sending bills of this area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) According to Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking, the billing of the electricity consumers in the Colony in question, upto July, 1987, is by and large complete. The electricity bills for the period August, '87 to December, '87 could not be despatched in January '88 due to some procedural difficulties. DESU expects to send the bills of the period under question within one month.

Recruitment and promotions in IDPL

1107. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a ban on recruitment and promotions in Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd.;

(b) if so, by when the ban is likely to be lifted; and

(c) what is the number of employees who are affected due to the ban on promotions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Because of severe capacity under-utilisation and accumulated losses, promotions and recruitments in the Indian Drugs and Pharmaceuticals Ltd. have been restricted to the barest essentials only.

(b) The restrictions will be relaxed at appropriate time when the situation improves.